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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

PACCAR Inc

Law Department

April 6, 1999

99V-655-003 (01)

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Meritor Automatic Slack Adjuster Recall

Dear Sir or Madam:

On March 29, 1999, PACCAR Inc determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in the Kenworth Truck Company and Peterbilt Motors Company vehicles described below, and is furnishing notification to the NHTSA in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 "Defects and Noncompliance Reports."

Description of the Defect

Meritor, the manufacturer, determined that the guide pawl torque on the Automatic Slack Adjuster (ASA) is not to the specified value of 15 - 20 lbs-ft. The ASA may lose adjustment in service due to normal brake wear. It is possible that this may go undetected during normal routine inspections, and lead to ineffective braking and increase vehicle stopping distance.

The supplier of the suspect part is:

Meritor Automotive, Inc.
2135 West Maple Road
Troy, MI 48084

Identification of Affected Vehicles

The vehicles involved in the subject recall are those which were manufactured with the Automatic Slack Adjuster and based upon preliminary information supplied by Meritor and on an initial search of manufacturing records are:

- Kenworth vehicles built between January 11 and January 14, 1999. From the initial review, Kenworth determined the recall population is comprised of approximately 250 vehicles in total.
- Peterbilt vehicles which were manufactured between January 4 and March 26, 1999. Peterbilt determined the recall population is comprised of 243 vehicles in total.

Chronology of Events Leading to Recall

Meritor notified Kenworth of the defect in a letter on March 16, 1999 and notified Peterbilt in a letter on March 24, 1999. Pursuant to this notification, the Kenworth Safety Committee decided on March 30, 1999 and the Peterbilt Safety Committee decided on March 30, 1999 to conduct a recall of all affected vehicles.

Description of Remedy

Recalled vehicles will be inspected at an authorized PACCAR dealership to torque the guide pawl bolt to the specified 15-20 lbs-ft.

Identification of Recall Schedule

PACCAR anticipates that the owner notification campaign will be initiated within 30 days. Kenworth has assigned the number "99KW01" to this campaign. The Peterbilt number for the campaign is "99PB01".

Very truly yours,



Kenneth R. Brownstein
Senior Counsel

KRB/cam
Enclosure

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